**Funds allocated under National Social Assistance Programme to Assam**

2293. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total funds allotted to the State of Assam under National Social Assistance Programme during the last three years;

(b) the funds utilised under the various schemes in the State; and

(c) the necessary steps taken by Government in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) and (b) The total funds allocated to the Government of Assam and the funds reported to be utilised by the State under the National Social Assistance Programme which comprised the National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS) and the National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) during the last three years are given below:

(Rs. in lakh)

| Name of the | 1999-2000 | | 2000-2001 | | 2001-2002 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Scheme | Allocation | Utilisation | Allocation | Utilisation | Allocation | Utilisation |
| NOAPS | 826.98 | 760.12 | 2624.34 | 1620.27 | 2624.34 | 2542.72 |
| NFBS | 646.36 | 474.70 | 1552.78 | 853.54 | 1473.14 | 1063.73 |

(c) As a result of the review of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes by the Government of India, the National Social Assistance Programme alongwith the Annapurna Scheme had been transferred to the the State Plan wth effect from the financial year, 2002-03. The funds are now being released by the Ministry of Finance as Additional Central Assistance to the State Plan and the States have the requisite flexibility in the choice and implementation of the Schemes.